

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 22, and 25-26 have been amended. Claims 14-21, 23-24, and 27 have been canceled. Claims 29-50 have been added. Hence, Claims 1-13, 22, 25-26, and 29-50 are pending in the present application.

Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed August 10, 2006 is addressed hereinafter.

I. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is thanked for granting the courtesy of a telephone interview on October 31, 2006. Examiner Ho and Applicants' representatives Christopher J. Palermo and Stoycho D. Draganoff participated in the interview.

The features of Claim 1 of storing a mapping of encryption types to services and selecting a service based on the mapping were discussed in view of W. Stallings, *Cryptography and Network Security, Principles and Practice*, Chapter 14 – Web Security, ISBN 0138690170, Prentice Hall 1998 (hereinafter "STALLINGS"). An agreement regarding patentability was not reached.

II. ISSUES RELATING TO THE PRIOR ART

A. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by STALLINGS. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 comprises the features of:

...
at an intermediate server, creating and storing a mapping that associates encryption types to a plurality of available online services, wherein each of the plurality of online services is provided by one or more of a plurality of servers;

...
selecting, from the plurality of online services, an online service that can
provide the data to the client based on the encryption type match,
wherein selecting the online service comprises selecting a particular
server from the plurality of servers that provides the online service;
... .

Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, STALLINGS does not teach or suggest the
above features of Claim 1.

In general, STALLINGS describes the SSL architecture and related protocols.
(STALLINGS, section 14.2, pp. 444-461.) The cited portions of STALLINGS describe the
SSL Handshake protocol. (STALLINGS, pp. 451-453.) In page 3, second full paragraph, the
Office Action asserts that for the purposes of examination, the encryption algorithms
described as part of the SSL Handshake protocol correspond to the online services featured in
Claim 1. This assertion is incorrect.

As expressly recited in Claim 1, each of the plurality of online services featured in
Claim 1 is provided by one or more of a plurality of content servers that are coupled to an
intermediate server, which is also coupled to one or more clients. In contrast, the server
described in pp. 450-455 of STALLINGS is configured to establish an SSL connection to a
client but is not configured to provide the client with access to a plurality of content servers.

Further, Claim 1 includes the feature of a creating and storing, at the intermediate
server, a mapping that associates encryption types to a plurality of available online services
that are each provided by one or more of the plurality of servers. There is absolutely nothing
in STALLINGS that teaches, describes, or suggests a mapping of encryption types to
services provided by one or more servers. STALLINGS has no stored mappings of any kind.

Finally, Claim 1 includes the feature of selecting, from the plurality of online
services, an online service that can provide the data to the client based on an encryption type

match established based on the mapping, where selecting the online service comprises selecting a particular server from the plurality of servers that provides the online service. In contrast, STALLINGS does not teach, describe, or suggest selecting a service based on an encryption type match that is established based on the mapping between encryption types and a plurality of services. Once the SSL client and server complete the SSL handshake, communications continue with the same server; there is no selection of servers.

For the above reasons, STALLINGS does not teach, describe, or suggest one or more features of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over STALLINGS. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

B. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 11, 13, 22, 25, AND 26

Claims 22, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by STALLINGS. Claim 11 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over STALLINGS in view of an Official Notice. Claim 13 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over STALLINGS in view of Gast, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0046532 (hereinafter “GAST”).

Claims 11, 13, 22, 25, and 26 include features similar to the features of Claim 1 discussed above. Furthermore, in rejecting Claims 11 and 13 the Office Action relies explicitly on STALLINGS, and not on GAST or on an Official Notice, to show a prior disclosure of the features discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Because STALLINGS does not teach the subject matter of Claim 1, any combination of STALLINGS with GAST or an Official Notice necessarily fails to teach the complete combination featured in any of Claims 11 or 13. Thus, each of Claims 11, 13, 22, 25, and 26 is allowable at least for the

reasons given above for Claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 11, 13, 22, 25, and 26 is respectfully requested.

C. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-10 AND 12

Claims 2-3, 5-8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by STALLINGS. Claim 4 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over STALLINGS. Claim 9 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over STALLINGS in view of an Official Notice. Claim 12 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over STALLINGS in view of GAST.

Each of Claims 2-10 and 12 depends from independent Claim 1, and thus includes each and every feature of the independent base claim. Furthermore, in rejecting Claims 4, 9, and 12 the Office Action relies explicitly on STALLINGS, and not on GAST or on an Official Notice, to show a prior disclosure the features discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Because STALLINGS does not teach the subject matter of Claim 1, any combination of STALLINGS with GAST or an Official Notice necessarily fails to teach the complete combination recited in any dependent claim of Claim 1. Thus, each of Claims 2-10 and 12 is allowable for at least the reasons given above for Claim 1.

In addition, each of Claims 2-10 and 12 introduces one or more additional features that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those features is not included at this time. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-10 and 12 are allowable for the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2-10 and 12 is respectfully requested.

D. NEW CLAIMS 29-50

Each of Claims 29-48 depends from one of independent Claims 25 and 26, and thus includes each and every feature of the corresponding base claim. Therefore, each of Claims 29-48 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above for Claims 25 and 26.

Independent Claims 49 and 50 include features similar to the features of Claims 11 and 13, respectively, except in the context of an apparatus. Thus, each of Claims 49 and 50 is allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons given above for Claims 11 and 13.

III. CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed. Further, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that allowance of all pending claims is appropriate. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency

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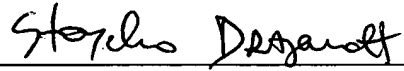
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of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: November 10, 2006



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